

Consumerism • december 77

# *Colorado Libertarian Newsletter*

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# Calendar

DEC.3  
Saturday  
Noon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING at CLP headquarters.

DEC.4  
SUNDAY  
11:00AM

BRUNCH at Maxwell's Restaurant, 435 S. Cherry St., Denver. Arthur M. Schwartz, a distinguished lawyer and leading defender of 1st Amendment rights will speak on "Pornography and the First Amendment".

DEC.9  
Friday  
8:00PM

COCKTAIL PARTY. Meet Roger MacBride, Boulder Inn - 770 28th Street, Boulder.

DEC.10-11  
Sat.&Sun.

CLP ANNUAL CONVENTION at the Radisson Hotel, 18th & Grant Streets, Denver. Business will include revisions and amendments to the state constitution, election of a new board of directors for '78, and adoption of a Colorado party platform. A TV personality will enlighten us about that media's coverage of political issues and candidates. Roger MacBride will be our featured speaker at Saturday night's banquet. Consult your special mailing for details and registration form.

FEB.18-19  
Sat.&Sun.

NOMINATING CONVENTION to select LP candidates for the '78 election.

The Colorado Libertarian Newsletter is published twelve times per year, with offices at 2239 East Colfax, Denver, Colorado. Permission to publish matter from this newsletter is granted by reciprocation. The Staff is composed of Faye Gilmore, Sally Mason, and Joseph Wroblewski, editor. Letters for placement in the newsletter are welcomed and encouraged. Deadline is first of each month preceding publication. Editorial should be factual, terse, and of interest.

Advertising rates: Classified, three lines: \$1.00. Quarter page: \$2.50. Half page \$5.00. Full page: \$9.00, \$12.00 back page. Send all matter to the CLP, Newsletter Depository, c/o Editor, 2239 E. Colfax, Denver, 80206. 320-4344.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

We support strong and effective laws against fraud and misrepresentation. However, we oppose paternalistic regulations which dictate to consumers, impose prices, define standards for products, or otherwise restrict free choice. We oppose governmental promotion or imposition of the metric system.

We oppose all so-called "consumer protection" legislation which infringes upon voluntary trade. We advocate the repeal of all laws banning or restricting the advertising of prices, products, or services. We specifically oppose laws requiring an individual to buy or use so-called "self-protection" equipment such as safety belts, air bags, or crash helmets. Likewise, we advocate the immediate repeal of the federally imposed 55 mile-per-hour speed limit.

We advocate the abolition of the Food and Drug Administration. We advocate an end to compulsory fluoridation of water supplies. We specifically oppose government regulation of price, potency or quantity of drugs or other consumer goods able to be produced or purchased. There should be no laws regarding what substances (nicotine, alcohol, hallucinogens, narcotics, laetrile, artificial sweeteners, vitamin supplements, or other "drugs") a person may ingest or otherwise use. (From 1977 revised National LP Platform.)

## THE CONSUMER IS KING

Is the consumer the abused, incompetent loser that so many consumer advocates paint him? Is he incapable of getting what he wants without innumerable agencies looking out for him?

I know a guy who went shopping for a new car. He was a knowledgeable chap...knew what he wanted and communicated that to the salesman. However, before finalizing the sale, he made one last request -- remove the dealer's name plaque from the car body. Since this was not well received, my friend offered an alternative...leave the plaque on the car in return for \$50 per month for one year for advertising. My friend drove his new car from the lot, sans dealer's name.



## Portents

FTC Chairman Michael Pertschuk said in a recent interview that he is "convinced that action has to be taken" to guard young children against TV ads promoting products containing large concentrations of sugar. Options available to the FTC range from requiring labels on such products as cereals, soft drinks, and candy warning about their sugar content, to requiring the televising of public-service messages emphasizing good nutrition and eating habits, to a total ban on the advertising.

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Who put the TRIS in children's sleepwear? None other than the Consumer Product Safety Commission when in 1972 they established rigid flame retardant requirements! The standard was so severe that flame-retarding chemicals had to be added even to naturally flame-resistant materials like wool. (See Reason magazine, July 1977, p.14 for more information.)

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Good intentions often have sour results. Take the Federal Trade Commission's efforts to protect shoppers in search of a bargain. It laid down a rule that any retailer advertising goods at reduced prices must guarantee that there is a reasonable number of items on hand. That rule went on the books in 1971 after thousands of shoppers complained that advertising bargains often weren't there when they went to buy. Now there's a suspicion that because of the regulation stores are not having as many sales. Also, retailers claim the expense of keeping records to conform to the rule results in higher prices. The FTC will undertake a study to find out whether the rule was a mistake. (From Changing Times, August 1977.)

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THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW.....by Sally Mason

"One female...had a long list she wanted made permanent laws-about private matters. No more plural marriage...no divorce...no 'fornication'...no drinks stronger than 4% beer...a long list of drugs to be prohibited...she even wanted to make GAMBLING illegal. Thing that got me was not her list of things she hated...but the fact that always somebody agreed with her prohibitions. Must be yearning deep in the human heart to stop other people from doing as they please. Rules, laws-always for the OTHER fellow. Not one of those people said: 'Please pass this so that I won't be able to do something I know I should stop!' Nyet...was ALWAYS something they hated to see neighbors doing. Stop them 'for their own good'...."

- Robert Heinlein, MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS

The phrase "There ought to be a law..." is most often used as a prelude to legislative action against certain kinds of behavior. It's used when one group of people want to change the actions of another, on 'moral' grounds, to rid the nation of some supposedly 'terrible social evil'.

Our nation was relatively devoid of this type of 'moral legislation' for 150 years. Each man went about his own business and kept his nose out everyone else's. But, since 1925, the popular attitude has been to legally force a behavioral code upon the citizenry, based loosely upon biblical dogma and puritan hogwash.

Fifty years, and hundreds of laws later, we are faced with the realization that moral legislation is futile. It simply hasn't worked. Our first drug laws were imposed in 1925, and illegal drug traffic & usage today is at an all time high. Prostitution was made illegal in 1945 or so, but this business is thriving (as it always has.) Gambling is a national pastime, although legal only in Nevada and New Jersey. Pornography is a burgeoning industry. Bigotry and discrimination are still rampant, despite all the Civil Rights legislation of the 60's and 70's.



Moral legislation, chosen as the best tool to control all these 'sinful' activities, has not accomplished a damn thing, EXCEPT to force these activities underground into the Black Market. For where there is demand, some sort of market will always emerge to supply that demand. It is ironical that our well-intentioned and virtuous government, in ad nauseum attempts to control our preferences, habits, desires and behavior, has only succeeded in creating a free-market void. And into this void has eagerly and viciously jumped a multitude of organized crime syndicates, cashing in on the demands which the legal market place is forbidden by law to fulfill.

And cash in, they do. The black market is a high risk area. Surrounded by countless government agencies whose *raison d'etre* is to seek out and destroy their operations, the black market supplies persevere for one reason; high profit. The underground consumer must pay dearly, play by a terrifying set of rules, and expect no protection. (There is no Better Business Bureau in the Black Market.) He cannot shop for prices, or quality. He is forced to deal with whomever they send to him. And if he is cheated, that's his tough luck.

The crucial fact to bear in mind is that moral legislation DOES NOT eliminate demand, or change behavior. It is not only the wrong tool, it is the worst vehicle to employ when trying to solve or diminish social problems. Force will not change a mind; it simply makes the recipient mad and more determined than ever to buy the outlawed product or service. It turns a matter of demand into a matter of angry emotional principle, ("just let 'em try and stop me!").

Only law-abiding people obey laws and the greater the number of laws, the fewer the people who can or will obey them...

...outlaw gambling, and it moves from a public casino into a secret, well-guarded backroom -

...outlaw drugs, and they are purchased in dim alleyways instead of drugstores -

...outlaw prostitution, and it reemerges inside massage parlors -

...outlaw guns, and only outlaws and bureaucrats will have guns (the bombs, the armament, the battleships, the highways and the communications networks are already illegal-the guns are all we have left between us and 'them') -

...outlaw pornography, and the 'vicarious' becomes 'vice' -

...outlaw much else, and sooner or later we'll all become outlaws.

"But, after all, I did break one of your laws. Well, what do you think they're for?...There's no way to rule innocent men. The only power any government has is the power to crack down on criminals. Well, when there aren't enough criminals, one makes them. One declares so many things to be a crime that it becomes impossible for men to live without breaking laws. Who wants a nation of law-abiding citizens? What's there in that for anyone? But just pass the kind of laws that can neither be observed nor enforced nor objectively interpreted - and you create a nation of law-breakers... and then you cash in on guilt."

-Ayn Rand, ATLAS SHRUGGED

Roy Riley, Maceo, KY is going around offering to clear bushes along the highway that may be used by state troopers to hide behind. (In medieval England, landowners were required to keep trees and brush cleared away for 40 yards on each side of the public highway, so that robbers would not have a place to hide.)

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachment of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

James Madison (1751-1836)



## THE GREAT ADDITIVE SCARE

-by Edith Efron

"One of these days, the Food and Drug Administration is going to discover that Jack Daniel's gives rats cirrhosis of the liver, and we'll be back with Prohibition again." That wry comment comes from scholar Irving Kristol, a man who can recognize an old folly masquerading in new garb. It sums up the ineffable silliness of the current consumerist drive to "protect" us from every allegedly unsafe substance that we are putting in our mouths. The media have failed abysmally to expose this silliness, of which surely the prize example is The Great Additive Scare. Almost no informational context is being provided on TV to give viewers insight into this bugaboo, when it would be so easy to do so. For example:

1. Consumerists are crying out warnings that the American food industry is putting chemicals into our food; that men were never intended to consume chemicals but only "natural" foods. Here's what the newsmen should be adding to this quaint doctrine: (a) that everything that exists, including human beings and "natural" foods, consists of chemicals; (b) that there is no chemical difference between manmade chemicals and "natural" chemicals; (c) that consumerists are using chemicals as a scare word.

2. Consumerists are warning us that industry is putting tons of chemicals called "additives" in our food-in effect, poisoning us for profit. Here's what the newsmen should be adding: (a) that per-capita consumption of "additives" per year is about 139 pounds, and that 129 of those pounds consist simply of sugar and salt; (b) that the 129 pounds break down as follows: 102 pounds-sucrose, (i.e., cane or beet sugar), 8 pounds-corn syrup, 4 pounds-dextrose (a simple sugar), 15 pounds-salt; (c) that of the 10 remaining pounds, 9 consist of such innocuous ingredients as pepper, mustard, yeast and sodium bicarbonate; (d) that only one pound of the 139 consists of colorings, emulsifiers, preservatives, etc.-about 1800 different chemicals, many used to prevent food from growing rancid and moldy, rotting, giving you food poisoning or botulism; (e) that the median level of each of these additives is about one-half a milligram per additive per year-the weight of one

grain of salt; (f) that every time you've heard a consumerist warning that a particular additive is threatening your life, he has been talking about that one speck per year.

3. The consumerists are now zeroing in on the major additives-sugar and salt. These, they charge are causing such diseases as heart disease, hypertension and diabetes. That is one of the bases of Sen. George McGovern's entry into the New Food Politics. McGovern has laid the conceptual groundwork for a law that, if passed, will inaugurate new State powers to dictate our diets. His launching pad is a document called "Dietary Goals for the United States," which seeks, among other things, to slash sugar consumption by 40 percent and salt consumption by 50 to 85 percent. Here's what the newsmen should add to McGovern's press releases: (a) that the McGovern Report is dominated by the determination to bring about "behavioral change" in U.S. eating habits-i.e., to manipulate us by taxation, laws and regulation into eating what a Federal food bureaucracy wants us to eat; (b) that the immediate target of coercion is the food industry; example: the McGovern Report launches the idea of banning TV advertising of foods containing the "dangerous" sugar and salt; (c) that dozens of the conclusions in that report-including the disease-causing potential of sugar and salt-are being contested by scientists; (d) that one critic, Dr. Fredrick J. Stare, professor of nutrition at Harvard, describes "Dietary Goals" as "essentially a political report prepared by a nonprofessional staff", and (e) that another critic, Dr. Thomas Jukes, professor of medical physics at the University of California Berkeley, describes "Dietary Goals" as animated by "Big Brother" impulses.

4. Consumerists are assuring us that so long as we stick to "natural" foods, we'll all be safe as houses, and that only man-made chemicals must be tested by the FDA, fed to rats, etc. Here's what the newsmen should be adding: (a) that "natural" foods also contain "dangerous" chemicals; (b) that bananas, pineapples, cheese, contain chemicals that raise blood pressure; (c) that peaches, pears, strawberries, Brussels sprouts, spinach, white tur-



nips, carrots and cauliflower contain chemicals that cause thyroid disease; (d) that some foods contain poisons (spinach, cashews, almonds, cocoa and tea contain oxalates and free oxalic acid; potatoes contain the poison solanine; fish and shellfish contain arsenic; lima beans break down during digestion into hydrogen cyanide); (e) that some foods contain natural carcinogens, e.g., (orange juice, flour, cabbage, turnips, sassafras and nutmeg); (f) that egg yolks are carcinogenic to mice; (g) that none of this matters a whit because you get only a trace of these chemicals in normal amounts of food, and the human body comfortably tolerates such traces; (h) that if the present standards used to test and ban man-made chemicals were applied to "natural" foods, a shocking number of them would be declared illegal; that, in fact, it would be illegal to swallow our own saliva, which contains nitrite, a substance that can be transformed in the stomach into nitrosamines (i.e. carcinogens).

5. Consumerists are intimidating citizens into believing that the American food industry is a death-dealing institution—a dominantly political campaign. Here's what the newsmen should be telling us: (a) that the life expectancy of Americans is rising; in 1900 people were "old" at 40, dead at 50; (b) that cancer of the digestive organs has no consistent pattern—colon cancer is rising but stomach and liver cancers are declining; (c) that save for occasional allergies, no known case of illness, let alone cancer, has ever been traced to food additives.

This will do to show you how the failure to provide context plays right into the hands of our fanatical "Prohibitionists." The information is easy enough to get. My food facts and figures come from "Food, Nutrition & You," by Fergus M. Clydesdale and Frederick J. Francis, both scientists at the University of Massachusetts. It was published in 1977. Read it for fast, fast relief from irresponsible journalism. Above all it will show you that research and testing for food safety are important but that the current standards are both politicized and insane.

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## CLP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Membership	Dick Mueller, 51 Washington Street, Denver, 80203 - 733-3143
Political Action	Neil Smith, 626 S. Meldrum, Ft. Collins, 80521 - 484-6824.
Communications	Faye Gilmore, 3295 Birch Street, Denver, 80207 - 355-6439
Research	John Mason, 168 S. Emerson Street, Denver, 80209 - 733-5916
Finance	Mary Louise Hanson, 1175 Vine, #305, Denver, 80206 - 321-7928
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Headquarters	2239 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver, 80206 320-4344
Office Manager	Sally Mason, 168 S. Emerson Street, Denver, 80209 - 733-5916

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## CLP Report

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October Board of Director's meeting: Highlights. Bud Hall was selected as CLP Treasurer, and scheduled take to take over that position in November. M. L. Hanson, Finance Director, announced that the NatCom Conference netted \$364.30.

It was decided that the CLP 1978 Nominating Convention will be held on February 18-19, and planning is underway.

The 1977 Board of Directors urges all members who are thinking about or planning to run for a Board position in December, to make their plans known to the Directors. They need to know, both to assist the 'maybes' in making a decision, and to actively hunt, if necessary, for people to participate on the Board next year. Thank you.



## PROFESSIONALS & ADVERTISING

- by Joseph Wroblewski, architect

The architects in Colorado recently received an outline of the laws that govern their practice. In no uncertain terms, the laws prohibit architects from advertising.

Before I speak about the law, hear some facts about architects; who are they? Are they the tweed-suited aristocrats of yesteryear or the levi jean clad blue collar worker of today? It's somewhere in between, actually. Architects have a tough time generally. They are educated to do exciting buildings, but often take the hindmost. The main reason things are not too rosy is that architects do less than 5% of the buildings in the USA. Back up and read that sentence again, for it's the truth.

If an architect were permitted to advertise, that is, to inform, he might be able to increase his workload, benefit himself and his family, plus help the populace.

Those who oppose advertising feel it would taint the profession; you know, make it commercial and common. They feel there would be a conflict of interest, this self-serving attitude of architects who advertise.

My view is that information about one's expertise must be made known. Advertising would be one vehicle for that endeavor. Incidentally, the more prosperous firms spend a good deal of money promoting themselves through the use of brochures, parties and gifts, so why not make it open?

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### A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

- by Jan Prince

I just got back from attending Nathaniel Branden's forty hour intensive on "Self-Esteem and the Art of Being" in Chicago. The intensive was \$250, I had plane fare and hotel bill in addition. It was worth every penny!

I had good expectations because I had talked to several good friends and libertarians who had attended and were enthusiastic. I wasn't disappointed. I am thrilled enough that I want to take it again, so I am sponsoring an intensive here in Denver in 1978.

The workshop's main objective is to illustrate that: (1) we don't pay enough attention to our bodies or our feelings, (2) we are taught in infancy to deny our emotions, wants and needs, (3) we are taught in infancy to feel that our own desires are not important in the overall "scheme of things".

In order to overcome this indoctrination, Branden uses experiential learning techniques. I have always considered myself pretty "together", but boy do I feel great now!

In order to sponsor an intensive in Denver, I need 75 reservations. If anyone would be interested, please call me at 320-0591 evenings or drop me a note at 1635 Cook #110, Denver, Colo., 80206 and I will inform you of the details and the date, once that is determined.

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Remember Bob Black. He's the guy from Pittsburg, Kansas who dared to compete with the Postal Service. He formed Alternate Systems, Inc. and on March 9, 1976 began delivery of local mail (letters & billing statements) at half the rate charged by U.S. Snail. The Postmaster wasn't slow on this score, though. Even before the first ASI delivery, the matter was under official investigation by the Postal Inspector in St. Louis.

ASI was short-lived, in practice at least, because the USPS brought criminal, not civil charges against both Bob and ASI. He was found guilty of violating the "private express" statutes which give to the USPS, (since 1970 deemed a public corporation) a monopoly to carry 1st class mail.

Unwilling to succumb, Bob Black is fighting back. He appeared at the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver September 30, 1977...more than a year after being judged guilty.

Justice is slow...and expensive. Here's a libertarian who doesn't just talk about freedom, he's fighting for it. If you believe in this fight, which may go to the Supreme Court, send him some financial encouragement. (He's received lots of the verbal kind.) Robert Black, 112 West Sixth, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.



The CLP needs you! The opportunity is fast approaching to serve in one of the following areas on the board of directors:

**CO-ORDINATOR:** is the official spokesperson for the Colorado Libertarian Party. He/She directs ideas to specific areas of responsibility, coordinates administrative functions, chairs the executive committee meetings, and acts as liason with National.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR:** is responsible for fund-raising, maintaining the treasury and the corresponding records, budget proposals and approvals.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:** maintains records pertaining to the membership, collects membership dues, interfaces with National on new members, follows up on inquiries and referrals by distribution of printed material and personal contact with prospective new members.

**POLITICAL ACTION DIRECTOR:** identifies political races, candidates, and issues, submits proposals to execom for political action, provides assistance to campaign committees, establishes and maintains liason with support groups, and prepares position papers.

**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:** is charged with establishing and maintaining communications internally, through production of the newsletter, and externally via publicity for all events, and the development of a speakers bureau.

**RESEARCH DIRECTOR:** is responsible for the educational activities of the CLP. He/She researches issues, collects data, and generates party literature, establishes and maintains a library, organizes discussion groups, seminars, and workshops, and provides speaker training.

**SPECIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR:** organizes and co-ordinates brunches and other social and special events.

**AFFILIATES REPRESENTATIVE:** is charged with establishing LP organizations (including YLA chapters) throughout the State of Colorado, maintaining on-going communication with each affiliate, and representing their views at the executive committee meetings.

There's plenty to do, so move out of neutral, head for the starting gate, and shift into high gear for the December races. The only requirement is that you be a CLP member (and eager to move the Party from the back-field into the front lines.)

We welcome the seven new members who joined the CLP in October as well as the five "oldies" who renewed. If you're uncertain when your membership expires, check the address label on your newsletter.

## LIBERTARIAN PARTY PLATFORM (CONDENSED VERSION)

### REGARDING GOVERNMENT:

- 1) WE FAVOR THE ABOLITION OF DAMN NEAR EVERYTHING.
- 2) WE CALL FOR DRASTIC REDUCTIONS IN EVERYTHING ELSE.
- 3) AND WE REFUSE TO PAY FOR WHAT'S LEFT!

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**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP \$8.** Includes CLP Newsletter, all special mailings.

**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$12.** Includes CLP Newsletter, all special mailings.

**SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP \$25.** Includes National LP & CLP Newsletters, all special mailings, free admission to Annual CLP Convention.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP \$50.** Includes National CL & CLP Newsletters, all special mailings, free admission to all State Conventions, free admission to Annual Convention Banquet.

**CLP NEWSLETTER ONLY, \$5.**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### Membership Application

- ☐ I am interested in learning more about the LP. Enclosed is \$1 for an information package.
- ☐ I would like to join the Colorado LP. Enclosed is \$ ..... (see dues schedule)
- ☐ I would like to subscribe to the newsletter. Enclosed is \$5.

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
CITY..... STATE.....  
Zip Code..... PHONE.....  
OCCUPATION.....

Please make checks payable to Colorado Libertarian Party. Box 1557, Denver, 80201.



## DENSMORE LIFE-NETS

### Privacy Protected HAPPY SURVIVAL Facilitation

The concept Happy Survival means: being able to provide for and enjoy life, now and for as long as we choose, even in a world of rapidly changing socio-economic conditions - in figurative language, "having life your way come hell or high water."

Some, including Life-Nets, are vitally concerned about total self-sufficiency. But most of us have neither the ability or the desire to maintain our lives this way. For most Happy Survival requires the effects of self-sufficiency in a world of rapidly changing conditions. Happy Survival requires: flexible and/or surplus earning power doing work we enjoy -- access to information about products and services we prefer not to produce for ourselves -- a multi-method communication system -- a "bank account" of health, money, products, and good-will -- skills and resources for things we do choose to produce and maintain ourselves.

Happy Survival requires means of increasing our alternatives while protecting our privacy and screening possibilities for viabilities.

Life-Nets purpose is discovery, communication, and implementation of viable conditions, products, facilities, services, and ideas for gaining and maintaining Happy Survival for all those, and only those, who take their desire for a good life in the real world seriously -- those who want primary control over their own lives and accept primary responsibility for their judgments and actions.

For more information, please contact Dan Densmore  
1720 Ogden, Denver, Co. 80218 phone 837-9739

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